

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01797 210303Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SY-05 HA-05 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 MCT-01 SSM-03  
/110 W

-----116789 211717Z /43

R 210100Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0106  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMMISSION GENEVA 0481  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1797

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SREF, AS, SN, VN  
SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON HIJACKED SHIP

REF: AM SINGAPORE 1712, B. SINGAPORE 1626

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ABOARD HIJACKED SHIP  
IN SINGAPORE HARBOR REMAINS AT A STANDSTILL, ACCORDING TO  
ARTICLE IN APRIL 20 CHINESE LANGUAGE DAILY NANYANG  
SIANG PAU. STORY CITES SPOKESMAN FOR AUSTRALIAN HIGH  
COMMISSION AS SAYING THAT AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES ARE  
WAITING TO SEE WHAT ACTION, IF ANY, SINGAPORE TAKES  
TOWARD THE FOUR CREW MEMBERS WHO "HIJACKED" THE SHIP  
BEFORE DECIDING ON THEIR REQUEST FOR REFUGE IN  
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AUSTRALIA. SINGAPORE SOURCES SAY, HOWEVER, THAT GOS  
IS WAITING FOR AUSTRALIAN DECISION BEFORE DECIDING  
HOW TO HANDLE THE FOUR "HIJACKERS." PAPER REPORTS  
THAT MFA SOURCES BELIEVE GOS WILL TAKE NO ACTION  
AGAINST HIJACKERS BECAUSE THERE IS NO SINGAPORE LAW  
COVERING HIJACKING AT SEA AND BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL  
NATURE OF THIS CASE. BASIC AUSTRALIAN POLICY, ON THE

OTHER HAND, SAID TO BE NOT TO ACCEPT HIJACKERS. STORY CONCLUDES THAT IF THE FOUR HIJACKERS ARE NOT ADMITTED TO AUSTRALIA, INFORMED SOURCES BELIEVE SINGAPORE WILL FORWARD THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THIRD COUNTRIES TO EMBASSIES OF THOSE COUNTRIES, AND THAT THEIR CHOICE IS LIKELY TO BE THE USA. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.

2. REPORT ON IMPASSE IN AUSTRALIAN-SINGAPOREAN HANDLING OF CASE APPEARS SUBSTANTIALLY ACCURATE. MFA DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF ACCURACY OF APRIL 19 STRAITS TIMES REPORT THAT AUSTRALIA HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ACCEPT THE REFUGEES OTHER THAN THE FOUR HIJACKERS. HE CONFIRMED THAT, AS REPORTED REF A, NONE OF REFUGEES HAD APPLIED TO GO TO FRANCE (AS STRAITS TIMES ARTICLES CONTINUE TO ASSERT).

3. GOS HAS NOT YET APPROACHED US RE THE FOUR HIJACKERS OR ANY OF OTHER REFUGEES ABOARD VESSEL. SHOULD THEY INQUIRE WHETHER WE WILL ACCEPT THE HIJACKERS, UNLESS DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS OTHERWISE, WE WILL ASK FOR PERSONAL INFO ON THEM AND SAY ONLY THAT WE WILL REFER MATTER TO WASHINGTON.  
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, SHIPS, SEA RESCUES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
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